
FORETELL Demonstration Project--Update

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Mr. Steven Sheffield provided an update of Castle Rock's efforts regarding the Federal Highway Administration's demonstration project—FORETELL. FORETELL is a cooperative project between the mid-western states of Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin. FORETELL offers detailed weather 24-hours in advance. The information includes:

- ❖ precipitation--type (liquid or frozen) and intensity
- ❖ temperature--ambient air and dew point
- ❖ cloud cover
- ❖ wind--direction and speed
- ❖ weather radar imagery
- ❖ atmospheric pressure
- ❖ pavement temperatures
- ❖ 24-hour precipitation accumulation.

Mr. Sheffield presented several screen shots to demonstrate how FORETELL will convey this information to the user. The screen shots can be animated and offer zoom capabilities. The variables and scales associated with each of the weather parameters were color-coded to ease identification. In addition to imagery and animation, data can be displayed in graphical/tabular form.

FORETELL utilizes the National Weather Service Local Analysis and Prediction System analysis, a 10-km MM5 model, and incorporates Road Weather Information System (RWIS) surface station observations. The updated, FORETELL developed version of the Mesoscale Model-version 5 (MM5) model runs 20 percent faster and produces forecasts out to 30-hours. In addition to weather information, FORETELL

provides road condition information consisting of ice prediction, drifting snow, and roadway temperature conditions.

FORETELL can also serve as a decision support system to a broad range of users and will provide operators with a route-by-route display of the specific weather parameters required to conduct their operations. The system can be configured to flag sections of roads that are impacted by frost, drifting snow, ice, and snow accumulation.

Link to Presentation:

www.ofcm.gov/WistII/Presentations/Day1/3_FORETELL/2_Wilson.ppt